



**Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona**

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**FLORIDA WOMAN CONVICTED OF POSSESSION OF
METHAMPHETAMINE**

PHOENIX - Omega Flores, 23, of Winterhaven, Fla., was found guilty here by a federal jury on August 19, 2005 of violating Title 21, U.S. Code Section 841, Possession with the Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine. The case was tried before U.S. District Court Judge David G. Campbell from August 17-19, 2005.

The evidence at trial showed that on August 21, 2004, Omega Flores was arrested as she was traveling east-bound on I-40, east of Flagstaff, Ariz., with Patricia Zaragoza and Zaragoza's 6-year-old daughter. Arizona Department of Public Safety officers found approximately 17 pounds of methamphetamine hidden in the side panels of the vehicle. The pair had picked up the methamphetamine in Phoenix and were taking it to an unknown individual in Florida. Each was paid to drive the car containing the methamphetamine. Flores faces ten years to life in prison for her involvement in this crime. Patricia Zaragoza had previously pleaded guilty to the same charge.

The defendant was remanded after trial. Sentencing is set before Judge David G. Campbell on October 31, 2005.

A conviction for violating Title 21, U.S. Code, Section 841 (a)(1) and (b)(1)(A)(viii) carries a maximum penalty of life in prison, a \$ 4,000,000 fine or both. In determining an actual sentence, Judge Campbell will consult the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

The investigation leading to the guilty verdict was conducted by the Arizona Department of Safety and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. The prosecution was handled by Brian G. Larson, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-04-904-PCT-DGC
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